



IFA Road and Broadleaf Thinning update

24/02/2012

Following an announcement on the 25th January 2012 by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Shane McEntee, **Forest Roads** and **Broadleaf Thinning** scheme have been reopened.

The Broadleaf Thinning scheme has reopened with no changes to the €750 per hectare funding which was available before its suspension. Minister McEntee followed the re-opening by saying that new applicants were welcome to apply and that the '*Processing of applications already in the system at the time of the suspension will resume immediately*'.

A new revised **Forest Roads** (grant) Scheme was reopened in place of the old scheme which was closed in mid-December 2011. The Minister stated that the revision of the scheme was conducted in order to '*achieve the best value from funding available*' he showed his support for the Roads scheme as he noted it as being '*one of our most important support measures under the forestry programme*'.

The details of the new Roads Scheme and the main changes from the old scheme are outlined below:

1. **Maximum Payment** per linear metre: **€35** (reduction of €10).
2. **Road density** allowed per hectare: **20 linear metres** (reduction of 5 metres).
3. **Payments** will be made **net of VAT**, regardless of applicant's VAT status.
4. **The construction of certain 'Loading bays'** maybe grant aided where the area allows.
5. **Pull in lay-bys (longitudinal loading bays)** may be considered on a case by case basis and where the area allows.
6. **Farmers, private forest owners and private forest companies will be eligible for the grant aid under the Forest Road Scheme.** (Public authorities and state owned companies will not).

The minister also added that the 200 or so applicants of the old Roads Scheme '*whose applications had yet to be determined or approved*' would receive a letter from the department shortly. The letter will invite these applicants to switch on to the new Scheme under the revised terms and conditions.